

Algorithm for Sedative Medication Choice:

| Level of sedation | Healthy patient | Older or ill patient |
|--|---|--|
| Pre-hospital if fearful, anxious <i>*see notes on Sedation Options</i> | Gabapentin <u>Cat:</u> 50 – 150 mg per cat, PO, 2 – 3 hrs prior to visit <u>Dog:</u> 20 – 40 mg/kg, PO, 2 – 3 hrs prior to visit Trazodone <u>Dog:</u> 3 – 7.5 mg/kg, PO, 1 – 2 hrs prior to visit Oral transmucosal dexmedetomidine <u>Dog:</u> 10 – 25 micrograms/kg, OTM administered in the hospital parking lot, wait 20 – 25 minutes for effect | Gabapentin <u>Cat:</u> 50 – 100 mg per cat, PO, 2 – 3 hrs prior to visit <u>Dog:</u> 20 – 40 mg/kg, PO, 2 – 3 hrs prior to visit Trazodone <u>Dog:</u> 3 – 7.5 mg/kg, PO, 1 – 2 hrs prior to visit |
| Light | Butorphanol <u>Dog & cat:</u> 0.4 mg/kg, IM Or 0.2 mg/kg, IV | Butorphanol <u>Dog & cat:</u> 0.2 – 0.4 mg/kg, IM/IV +/- Midazolam <u>Dog & cat:</u> 0.2 mg/kg, IM/IV |
| Moderate | Opioid of choice (at dose of choice) + Acepromazine <u>Dog:</u> 0.02 – 0.05 mg/kg, IM <u>Cat:</u> 0.025 - 0.1 mg/kg, IM <i>or</i> Opioid of choice (at dose of choice) + Dexmedetomidine <u>Dog:</u> 3 – 7 micrograms/kg, IM <u>Cat:</u> 5 – 10+ micrograms/kg, IM | Butorphanol <u>Dog & cat:</u> 0.2 – 0.4 mg/kg, IM Or 0.2 mg/kg IV +/- Midazolam <u>Dog & cat:</u> 0.2 mg/kg, IM/IV |
| Heavy | Add Higher dose of Dexmedetomidine (see doses above) +/- Alfaxalone ~2 mg/kg, IM if cat (or cat-sized dog) or Low-dose Ketamine if cat | Add to Butorphanol/Midazolam: Alfaxalone 1 – 2 mg/kg, IM if cat (or cat-sized dog) or Low-dose Ketamine if cat 1 – 2 mg/kg, IM |
| <p><i>You will have more control with brief general anesthesia (see below) compared with sedation in older and ill patients as long as you monitor & support them</i></p> | | |
| Brief General Anesthesia | Place IV catheter Alfaxalone (0.5 – 3 mg/kg, IV, to effect) or Propofol (1 – 4 mg/kg, IV, to effect) Supplemental O ₂ Ready to intubate More intensive monitoring | |

****Sedate with Caution: Patients that have congenital or acquired respiratory disease****